



ASK EPA !!

Questions and Answers

about Asbestos and EPA's Investigation

Q : Do the Community Advisory Group (CAG) and Technical Assistance Group (TAG) serve the same purpose?

A : The groups operate differently and have different functions in the community. The Community Advisory Group (CAG) has existed since January 2000, as a discussion and problem-solving group. It continues as a monthly forum. The group values people with different interests coming together to discuss with EPA, DEQ and each other issues and goals they may share with regard to the asbestos cleanup. Economic redevelopment, the Troy cleanup and the mine site are among the issues that will be discussed in the near future. The CAG has seen many changes over the years and participated in many community actions. These include:

- formation of several other groups and organizations including the TAG; an independent Center for Asbestos Related Disease (CARD) and a psycho-social support group for people affected by asbestos-related disease.
- a successful application for an EPA grant to create a data base of present and former Libby students.
- active correspondence with decision-makers including W.R. Grace health care program officials; elected officials in Montana and Washington, D.C. and the directors of agencies with the authority to fund and carry out asbestos related health care, research, and cleanup.

The Technical Assistance Group (TAG) receives a grant from EPA to hire an independent technical advisor to interpret complex EPA documents. TAG members discuss the interpretations in their meetings and, in turn, share what they learn with the community. The group also provides input to EPA about community concerns.

Members of TAG are actively working with EPA to understand the basic science, key issues and processes involved in the asbestos cleanup. The group will soon be announcing a plan for open forums designed to share technical information and answer questions people may have regarding the cleanup and decision-making process and how the public can be involved in it.

The CAG meets on the second Thursday of each month from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm in the Ponderosa Room at Libby City Hall. The TAG meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm in the Community College on Highway 2.

Both CAG and TAG meetings are open to the public and each meeting includes time for public comment and questions.

For more information, please call: Wendy Thomi at 1-866-457-2690 or
EPA Information Center at 293-6194

Happy Holidays !